

Art Unit: 1755

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

The application has been amended as follows:

In the specification, before line ⁴ of page 1 insert:--This Application is a 371 filing of PCT/EP04/11608, filed 15 October 2004.--.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The prior art of record fails to teach or suggest the formation of a solid mixture of starch and C₁₄₋₂₂-alkyldiketenes by blending said diketenes with a starch melt in the presence of a destructuring agent or the improved product obtained thereby. The instant specification provides convincing evidence that the product of the instant claims is materially different than mixture of starch and C₁₄₋₂₂-alkyldiketenes formed by blending them in an aqueous dispersion.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to David M. Brunzman whose telephone number is 571-272-1365. The examiner can normally be reached on M, Th, F, Sa; 7:00-5:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jerry Lorengo can be reached on 571-272-1233. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

JSB
7/17/07